

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SP-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-20

NSC-07 L-03 AGR-20 DRC-01 /147 W  
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R 301759Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0829

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 06756

E'O' 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: EC RENEGOTIATION - COMMONWEALTH TRADE

REF: LONDON 5549

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE UK HAS CANVASSED ALL THE MEMBERS OF  
THE COMMONWEALTH IN CONNECTION WITH EC RENEGOTIATION'  
WITH TWO MINOR EXCEPTIONS, THEY HAVE ALL SAID THAT  
THEIR PREVIOUS APPREHENSIONS ABOUT BRITISH MEMBER-  
SHIP IN THE EC HAVE PROVEN UNFOUNDED, THAT THEY ARE  
NOT INTERESTED IN REVERTING TO PAST ECONOMIC RELATION-  
SHIPS, AND THAT THEY WELCOME THE FACT THAT BRITAIN  
CAN ACT AS THEIR "FRIEND AT COURT" IN THE COMMUNITY.

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END SUMMARY

1' IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STRATEGY ADOPTED IN LATE APRIL (REFTEL), THE UK HAS NOW CANVASSED ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHAT SHOULD BE DONE FOR THEM IN THE RENEGOTIATION OF THE TERMS OF BRITISH MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC. TEAMS OF UK OFFICIALS HAVE VISITED CANADA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND SUGAR PRODUCING LDCS. THE OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES WERE CANVASSED VIA THE UK'S HIGH COMMISSIONS.

2. ACCORDING TO RODRIC BRAITHWAITE (HEAD, EUROPEAN INTEGRATION - EXTERNAL - DEPARTMENT, FCO), ALL THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES, WITH TWO MINOR EXCEPTIONS (FIJI AND SWAZILAND), EXPRESSED "EXACTLY THE SAME VIEWS." THEY ALL SAID THAT ANY APPREHENSIONS WHICH THEY HAD HAD ABOUT BRITISH MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY DURING THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS HAD TURNED OUT TO BE UNFOUNDED. THEY HAD FOUND NEW MARKETS FOR THEIR GOODS, AND WERE NOT INTERESTED IN RETURNING TO PAST ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE UK. THEY WELCOMED THE FACT THAT BRITAIN COULD ACT AS THEIR "FRIEND AT COURT" IN THE COMMUNITY.

3. BRAITHWAITE SAID THAT A FEW SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS HAD BEEN MADE BY CERTAIN COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES CONCERNING WAYS IN WHICH THEY MIGHT IMPROVE THEIR ACCESS TO EC MARKETS. BRAITHWAITE DECLINED TO GO INTO DETAIL, BUT SAID THAT IT IS AN "OPEN QUESTION" WHETHER ANY OF THESE SUGGESTIONS WOULD BE IN THE UK'S INTEREST. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS NOW CONSIDERING THEM, AND THE CABINET WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO SUBMIT ANY OF THEM TO THE COMMUNITY AS SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE DONE AT THE JUNE 10-11 COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS, SINCE THE PROPOSALS WOULD INVOLVE AGRICULTURAL TRADE. THE REMARKS THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN WILL MAKE ON COMMONWEALTH TRADE AT THE JUNE 4 COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE LIKELY TO BE OF A VERY GENERAL NATURE.

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** EGEN, UK, EEC  
**To:** STATE  
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